

tool 27




Guiding Principles for MRM

Factsheet

The following principles have been taken from the MRM Field Manual Annex 7 and highlight key humanitarian principles and their meaning for monitoring, reporting and response.

Principle	Definition	Implications for the MRM
Best interests of the child	In all decisions affecting children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all aspects of the MRM, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.
Humanity	Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The dignity and rights of all people must be respected and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, reporting and response must be conducted for the principal and sole purpose of alleviating human suffering, wherever it is found, and not for any political purposes. Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken in a way that protects and respects the dignity and rights of victims. For example, by respecting the dignity of victims during interviews and in the recording and reporting of violations.
Neutrality	Humanitarian action must be carried out without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken in an unbiased, objective manner without taking sides in political or ideological disputes. These activities must make every effort to report on violations against CAAC <i>by any and all parties</i> to the conflict. Monitoring and reporting should not be undertaken to support or advance the political objectives of any one party to a conflict.
Impartiality	Humanitarian action must be carried out without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Action must be guided solely by needs and priority must be given to the most urgent cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken without discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or any other factor. For example, practitioners must not limit monitoring and reporting to violations affecting victims from any one particular group.
Operational independence	Humanitarian actors must retain full control of their operations. Agencies must ensure that their operational independence is respected at all times. Humanitarian action must be conducted separately and clearly distinguished from military-led relief operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRM practitioners must at all times retain operational control and direction of monitoring, reporting and response activities. MRM practitioners should not, for example, agree to restrictions by parties to the conflict on the type or scope of monitoring of violations against children.

related tools

-  tool 29 – Checklist on confidentiality
-  tool 28 – Sample language for a code of conduct
-  tool 46 – Factsheet ‘Information management’